GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3831
ANSWERED ON:08.04.2003
PROTOCOL FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided any protocol of precedence for the elected representatives under the Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL)

(a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development does not decide the protocol of precedence for elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) The warrant of precedence is intended to regulate the order of precedence for officials of the Government such as the Head of State, Central and State Ministers, Members of Judiciary, Permanent Civil and Military Officers, Ambassadors, holders of Bharat Ratna etc. during State/Ceremonial functions which necessitate observance of protocol. It is decided by the Head of the State i.e. the President in his prerogative and is issued in the form of an executive order by the President`s Secretariat. It is meant for making seating arrangements and has no application in day to day business. The Warrant of Precedence currently in force was issued by the President`s Secretariat in 1979 and has by and large remained unchanged since then.

(d) While no warrant of precedence has been decided for elected Panchayati Raj Institutions, by the Ministry of Rural Development, elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions are given due regard and respect at all ceremonial functions.